



2. This 9 additional feet is being gained by deleting the two tree lawns. This is not Canal Winchester-type development. It is more like New York City.

3. One suggestion was to bring the 5 foot sidewalk back to the original 4' width which would give a 3½' tree lawn. Mr. Vasko believes this is a misnomer as no tree can be planted in a 3½' green space. It will simply be a stripe.

4. Mr. Vasko suggests that the street lanes be built the width of the preferred ODOT recommendation, 10', and the parking lanes be 8' for a total street width of 36' (4' wider than it is currently) and would give only a loss of 2' of tree lawn on each side, leaving a 6' tree lawn on both sides of the street and will retain the traditional neighborhood character. 12 of the 19 trees will be lost, but it will leave enough greenery there to represent a good compromise.

Mr. Vasko doesn't believe that there is a traffic problem at this time on Columbus Street. The traffic pattern has changed dramatically since the closing of the school.

Most importantly, this plan is building too much street. It is not being built to service the residents of Canal Winchester, it is being built to service those that live outside of Canal Winchester and drive through it on a daily basis. It is the quality and care of this community that should be a priority.

Mr. Vasko pleads with Council to take the time to fully discuss this project instead of moving ahead quickly just to save nickels.

**Paul Bender**, of 71 W. Columbus Street, would like to echo the sentiments of Mr. Vasko and add his own comments. Everyone that visits him states how nice, quaint, quiet and historic Canal Winchester is. Mr. Bender presents a picture of W. Columbus Street that made the cover of Columbus Monthly. It is a picturesque tree-lined street that is doomed after this new construction. The trees will be gone and it will be all concrete.

It is his opinion that this will negatively affect, not only Columbus Street and its residents, but will take away the look and feel of the Historic Preservation District as a whole. It will have a negative impact on West Columbus Street property value.

Mr. Bender cannot argue the statistics of the traffic problem, but he can argue common sense. He and his wife have sat on their porch in the mornings for 3 years and never seen a traffic problem. If there are cars backed up due to the light, they all make it through when it turns green. There are no "traffic jams".

Canal Winchester prides itself on being a "tree city" and a majority of the trees are being lost. In the Historic District, the look and feel of the community should be kept in focus. Mr. Bender is angered and disappointed at the way this has unfolded. The plan was not revealed until December in a one hour meeting and the Public Comment time was taken away. He feels like the time for resident's input was just thrown to the wayside. Mr. Bender put together the petition and brought it forth to the meeting and will do whatever it takes to get more people here to discuss the project if given more time. He feels it is not too late to make this happen.

**Mr. Peoples** noted that there were two public hearings out on the site that were well-attended. At those meetings, residents were asked to fill out a form with specific questions as to what were the problems with the street. A public notice and direct mail were used to notify the residents of those meetings. The four biggest points addressed on the resident feedback forms were streetlights, trees, parking and traffic. Safety was the biggest factor in the Engineers coming up with the current street width. It was also taken into consideration to not lose parking on one side of the street.

Mr. Peoples stated that typical construction is to come in and cut down all the trees and start over. They worked diligently with the Urban Forester and Street Tree Advisory Board to come up with a plan that would accommodate the large trees staying.

Ms. Mershon asked if the suggestions put forth by Mr. Vasko could be accomplished. Mr. Peoples stated that after the meeting with Mr. Vasko, the tree lawn was changed from a 2½ 'tree lawn to a 4' tree lawn. As far as the street width, traffic count in 2006 and it is our Engineers opinion that we need the street width that is currently put forth.

Ms. Mershon noted that the traffic count in 2006 was prior to the school closing and believes the traffic count would be significantly different now. Mr. Peoples states that lane widths were the issue and they have not changed regardless of the traffic count and that they are looking ahead toward the future with this project. A discussion of the measurements of the street and tree lawn ensued.

Dr. Bender believes that we have really great people that have worked very hard on this project and that they should be given the ability to go ahead with the Columbus Street Project.

Ms. Mershon noted that she would like to have one more Public Meeting before any bids are accepted. She wants to look into an extension from OPWC to allow for time for this meeting. Nanisa Osborn states that an extension is a possibility from OPWC; however, it will negatively impact every project that we apply for after this. Further discussion of the measurements of the street, parking and curb ensues.

Mr. Deeds leans toward the thought of having one more public meeting, but believes that it is just a feel-good measure at this point and wouldn't change the outcome. He believes the Village of Canal Winchester made a good faith effort to get the information out to the public and though it may have been improved, nothing was done maliciously. His inclination is to take no action at this point and let the project continue as planned.

#### **ORDINANCES:**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

Sponsor: Mrs. Rush-Ekelberry  
O-08-01A AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR INDIGENT DEFENSE REPRESENTATION IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT AND THE CANAL WINCHESTER MAYORS COURT FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2008 WITH THE FRANKLIN COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER.

Mrs. Rush-Ekelberry read the ordinance.

Sponsor: Dr. Bender  
O-08-01B AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 11 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE VILLAGE OF CANAL WINCHESTER, REZONING APPROXIMATELY 4.895 ACRES FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL AND LIMITED MANUFACTURING TO PLANNED COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF WEST WATERLOO STREET AND CEMETERY ROAD

Dr. Bender read the ordinance.

Sponsor: Dr. Bender  
O-08-01C AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH RESOURCE INTERNATIONAL INC FOR CONSULTING SERVICES RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION TESTING FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2008 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2009.

This is a one-year contract renewal with Resource International to provide construction testing services for the Village of Canal Winchester.

Dr. Bender read the ordinance.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

Sponsor: Mrs. Rush Ekelberry  
R-08-01A A RESOLUTION TO APPOINT ALLAN NEIMAYER AND CHRISTOPHER STRAYER  
AS THE VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY TAX  
INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL  
Mrs. Rush-Ekelberry read the resolution.

Sponsor: Dr. Bender  
R-08-01B A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LETTER OF NO  
OBJECTION AGREEMENT WITH COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC., REGARDING  
THE GROVEPORT ROAD BIKE PATH PROJECT.  
Dr. Bender read the resolution.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mr. Jarvis made a motion to accept the Mayor's Court Report for December, 2007. Ms. Mershon seconded the motion.

**VOTE:**

**AYES** Mr. Bender, Mr. Deeds, Mr. Jarvis, Ms. Mershon, Mr. Paini,  
Ms. Rush-Ekelberry, Ms. Turner

**NAYS**

Motion carried.

Mayor Ebert has been in contact with Sgt Kern and Sheriff Phalen in regards to starting a Crime Watch program within the Village limits. Mr. Ebert would like to start this as soon as possible, looking at a possible start date of late summer 2008. Reynoldsburg is beginning this program in response to the businesses leaving the Brice Road area and Mr. Mayor believes this would be a proactive approach for the Village. There are three vehicles available at this time and the training is scheduled for May.

The program uses residents of the Village of Canal Winchester as volunteers. Those volunteers have a car with Crime Watch on the side and drive around. They report any suspicious activity to the deputy on the street. 12-15 people working approximately 6 hours per month would be needed to activate the program. This program is at no cost to the Village of Canal Winchester.

**Public Works Director:**

Mr. Peoples stated EMHT extended an offer that 2007 rates would continue into 2008 and the Service Committee accepted that offer. EMHT is not able to provide engineering support for water and wastewater services at this time. They are looking at entering into a contract with Bird & Bull for those services.

Dietz Road/ Gender Road signal will be started later this month with actual activation date in February.

Meijer has on-going off site road improvements and anticipate 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 08 opening. Street CIP has been reconfigured and Lithopolis/Gender Road intersection improvements are being delayed due to design issues.

Washington Knolls reconstruction is going forward. Winchester Trace project is finishing up and then they will move onto some preventative maintenance street projects.

They will be coming forward with some legislative changes soon due to Stormwater Sewer Permit changes set forth by the State EPA.

Shawn Starcher has been promoted to Street Supervisor position and will be interviewing applicants for his old position.

Benches from the street are being rehabbed and will be set out again by Ed Snyder and the crew.

Dick Miller, Urban Forester, is working on an owl habitat for Arbor Day. Mr. Miller just finished placing Tree Swallow boxes at the wetlands on Dove Parkway with a SWACO grant as part of an experimental mosquito control project.

Steve Smith and Mr. Peoples just returned from a productive trip to Virginia to preview wastewater processing equipment.

A new control system will be put in at the 33 lift station due to the new FCC regulations about turning off analog cellular signals.

Changes made in December at the Water Treatment Plant have resulted in a dramatic decrease in water complaints and they are looking into a long term tower maintenance contract.

**Development Director:**

The Public Hearing for Winchester Farms was earlier this evening and on February 4<sup>th</sup>, a public hearing for the proposed rezoning of the old Wendy's will be held.

CWICC meeting will be this Thursday to discuss Canal Pointe and future development for that area. The sub-committee to talk about the KCDG development will meet on Friday. They are working on a schedule to get them back in front of the Planning Commission at the February meeting.

**Community Affairs Director:**

Ms. Hoover advised that AARP will be hosting free tax services on Wednesdays from February 6<sup>th</sup> – April 9<sup>th</sup>. To qualify, applicants must be 50 or older, disabled or low-income. Contact the Community Center for a time-slot.

Ms. Hoover also needs Council bios by February 4<sup>th</sup> to get them on the Village of Canal Winchester website.

Also, a reminder to those who are interested in participating on the village team of Relay for Life please contact her.

**Village Solicitor:**

Mr. Hollins requested an executive session regarding pending litigation at the end of the meeting.

**Fairfield County Sheriff:**

See written report.

Ms. Osborn was notified by the State Auditor's Office that they will be doing an audit of the CWICC for the calendar years of 2006 & 2007. They anticipate being here in the next three months.

An Ordinance with regards to video service providers will be brought forth at the Finance Committee meeting. This will bring in place the franchise fee that currently exists when a local franchise agreement is modified to a state franchise agreement. Unless legislation exists that meets State criteria, the fee will no longer exist. See written report in packet.

**Public Hearing Re-zoning 202 Cemetery Rd    Monday, February 4, 2008 at 6:30 PM**

**Old Town Committee                 Monday, February 11, 2008 at 5:45 PM**

**Finance Committee                  Monday, February 4, 2008 at 5:45 PM**

**Service Committee                  Monday, February 18, 2008 at 5:45 PM**

**Safety Committee                   Monday, February 11, 2008 at 5:00 PM**

Mr. Jarvis moved to appoint Patrick Lynch to the Landmarks Commission. Ms. Mershon seconded the motion.

Time in 9:22pm

